

---

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2741

---

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By House Committee on Natural Resources & Parks (originally sponsored by Representatives Linville, Pruitt, King, Rust, Valle, R. Johnson, Roland, Rayburn, R. Meyers, J. Kohl, Kremen, L. Johnson and Karahalios)

Read first time 02/04/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to coordinated, watershed-based natural resource  
2 planning; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) In times of decreasing revenues and increasing demands, it is  
6 critically important to ensure the efficient use of scarce financial  
7 resources by avoiding overlap and duplication of effort among  
8 watershed-based planning efforts;

9 (2) Comprehensive planning for the management of natural resources  
10 on a watershed basis is desirable because it has the potential to  
11 address multiple concerns in an integrated and efficient manner;

12 (3) Implementation of watershed-based planning may be complicated  
13 by multiple land ownerships, different management missions and  
14 objectives, different ways of collecting information, and legal  
15 constraints such as federal and state antitrust statutes;

16 (4) Many different entities, including federal, state, and local  
17 governments, tribes, and landowners are already conducting watershed-  
18 based planning, research, and monitoring programs;

1 (5) There exists a compelling need for coordination of these  
2 various watershed-based planning efforts and for a consistent process  
3 for collecting and sharing information and data among all interested  
4 parties; and

5 (6) There also exists a compelling need to identify regional  
6 natural resource goals and objectives as a clear direction for future  
7 planning efforts.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) State agencies involved in watershed-  
9 based natural resource planning efforts shall coordinate their planning  
10 and implementation processes. These cooperating state agencies shall  
11 include, but not be limited to, the departments of natural resources,  
12 agriculture, ecology, fish and wildlife, health, and community, trade,  
13 and economic development; the Puget Sound water quality authority; and  
14 the office of the governor. These agencies will meet as a group and  
15 include at those meetings representatives of federal agencies, local  
16 governments, tribes, private landowners, environmental groups, and  
17 other interested parties.

18 (2) The commissioner of public lands shall coordinate discussions  
19 of watershed-based natural resource planning among these various  
20 parties. The department of natural resources will provide a reasonable  
21 level of staff support for the work of the group.

22 (3) On or before December 15, 1994, the department of natural  
23 resources shall prepare a report for the legislature based on the  
24 group's discussions and findings. At a minimum this report shall  
25 include:

26 (a) Identification of barriers to coordination and cooperation in  
27 watershed-based planning and management of natural resources;

28 (b) Recommendations on the collection, storage, and maintenance of  
29 information in watershed analysis, planning, monitoring, and research  
30 programs. These recommendations could lead to the establishment of  
31 protocols governing data collection and information exchange;

32 (c) Identification of actual and potential overlap and duplication  
33 of effort in watershed-based natural resource planning efforts;

34 (d) Identification of gaps of coverage in existing and proposed  
35 watershed planning projects; and

36 (e) Examination of the possible establishment of a central  
37 depository and of a process for periodically updating and distributing  
38 information on watershed-based natural resource planning efforts.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    The governor shall establish a process which  
2 yields:        (1) The identification of strategies for developing  
3 cooperative watershed-based planning efforts, which shall in turn lead  
4 to identification of regional, results-oriented goals and objectives  
5 for the management of natural resources in the state of Washington; (2)  
6 the identification of approaches for coordinating and financing the  
7 implementation of watershed-based plans; and (3) recommendations for  
8 on-going, program-level coordination of watershed-based natural  
9 resource planning and management activities.    In developing this  
10 process, the legislature encourages the governor to seek input from all  
11 interested parties.    By December 15, 1995, the governor shall submit  
12 his recommendations to the legislature for possible adoption as state  
13 policy.

--- END ---